

As businesses in Upper Arlington begin to re-open after the pandemic, city staff wants you to do so safely. Please see the recommendations below from the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office.

Barriers (including drapery and fabrics) (OFC 107.1; OFC 107.5)

- Barriers cannot interfere with or impede the operation of fire suppression systems.
- Barriers cannot interfere with or impede the operation of smoke alarms.
- Barriers cannot interfere with or impede the operation of fire alarm systems.
- Barriers cannot interfere with or impede established egress. (OFC 807.2(c))

Drapery and Fabrics

- Drapery and fabric used to separate individuals or parties that is suspended from walls or ceilings must not exceed 10% of the wall or ceiling area where they are located. (OFC 807.3)
 - Drapery and fabric must meet flame propagation performance criteria or exhibit a maximum rate of heat release per the OFC. (OFC 807.4; OFC 803.1.1)
 - Drapery and fabric must not exceed flame spread indices established in the OFC. (OFC 803.3; Table 803.3)
- Note: Decreased occupant load may affect requirements and potentially mitigate some concerns.

Egress

- Adequate egress must be maintained. (OFC 1001.2)
- Barriers, partitions, draperies, etc. cannot interfere with, impede, obstruct egress / visibility thereto. (OFC 807.2(c)) Note: reduced and rearranged seating configurations may affect adequacy of exiting egress.

Occupancy

- All establishments must be occupied in accordance with the Ohio Building Code (OBC) and the occupancy provisions of the OFC. (OFC 102.3.1)
- Occupancy of a structure cannot be changed unless the building is made compliant with OBC requirements for the new use. However, the fire code official can approve a less hazardous use. (OFC 102.3.3)
- Minimum conditions of occupancy must be met and no building shall be occupied unless it is in substantial compliance with the OFC and does not constitute a distinct or serious hazard. (OFC 105.3.3)

For greater details see The Ohio Fire Code at <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/1301%3A7-7>.

Please reach out to the UA Fire Division at 614.583.5115 or the UA Building Division at 614.583.5070 with questions. We want to partner with you to get you back in business quickly and, most importantly, safely.



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